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In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims:

1 (currently amended). A method of reducing the incidence of colorectal cancers in a ~~mammal~~ human in need thereof, which method ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of administering to said mammal an effective amount of a water soluble, non-fermentable cellulose derivative selected from methylcellulose, ethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, alone or in combination with an insoluble fiber ~~and/or a soluble fermentable fiber~~.

2 (currently amended). The method according to Claim 1 wherein the water soluble, non-fermentable cellulose derivative is ~~a cellulose ether which is methylcellulose, ethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, or a combination thereof.~~

Claim 3 (cancelled).

4 (previously presented). The method according to Claim 1, wherein the insoluble fiber is wheat bran.

5 (currently amended). The method according to Claim 1 wherein the water soluble, non-fermentable cellulose derivative is methylcellulose ~~or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.~~

6. (original) The method according to Claim 2 wherein the cellulose is administered as bulk powder, a tablet, or suspension, which optionally contains sugar.

7. (original) The method according to Claim 6 wherein the cellulose is administered in a rapidly disintegrating tablet.

8. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the total daily dosage administered is from about 0.4 gram to 30 grams day.

9. (original) The method according to Claim 8 wherein the total daily dosage administered is from about 1 gram to 10 grams day.

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10 (currently amended). A method of reducing the incidence of breast cancer in a ~~mammal~~ human in need thereof, which method ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of administering to said ~~mammal~~ human an effective amount of a water soluble, non-fermentable cellulose derivative selected from methylcellulose, ethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, alone or in combination with an insoluble fiber ~~and/or a soluble fermentable fiber~~.

11 (currently amended). The method according to Claim 10 wherein the water soluble, non-fermentable cellulose derivative is ~~a cellulose ether which is methylcellulose, ethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, or a combination thereof~~.

Claim 12 (cancelled).

13. (previously amended) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the insoluble fiber is wheat bran.

14 (currently amended). The method according to Claim 10 wherein the water soluble, non-fermentable cellulose derivative is methylcellulose ~~or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose~~.

15. (original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein the cellulose is administered as bulk powder, a tablet, or suspension, which optionally contains sugar.

16. (original) The method according to Claim 15 wherein the cellulose is administered in a rapidly disintegrating tablet.

17. (original) The method according to Claim 10 wherein the total daily dosage administered is from about 0.4 gram to 30 grams day.

18. (original) The method according to Claim 17 wherein the total daily dosage administered is from about 1 gram to 10 grams day.